

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 04565 111831Z

43

ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3735

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 4565

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, PO

SUBJECT: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

SUMMARY: BOTH SOCIALISTS AND COMMUNISTS ISSUED STATEMENTS OVER THE WEEKEND CLARIFYING PARTY POSITIONS. BOTH STATEMENTS WERE OF THE "CLOSE-RANKS" VARIETY. CUNHAL'S REMARKS TO PCP CENTRAL COMMITTEE AUGUST 10 STRESSED UNITY THEME AND REFLECTED CURRENT PCP NERVOUSNESS. FIFTEEN PERSONS WERE WOUNDED DURING ASSAULT ON PCP OFFICES IN BRAGA FOLLOWING AUGUST 10 DEMONSTRATION BY CATHOLICS IN SUPPORT OF ARCHBISHOP. PCP OFFICES IN BRAGA WERE LATER SACKED. INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST THE LEFT CONTINUED ELSEWHERE IN THE AREA NORTH OF LISBON. EMIGRANTS' DAY WAS CELEBRATED IN LISBON AUGUST 10 WITH RALLY IN SUPPORT OF AFM AND REVOLUTION WHICH CALLED MORE ATTENTION TO DIVIDED GOVERNMENT'S INABILITY TO DEAL EFFECTIVELY WITH MOST URGENT MIGRATION PROBLEM -- RETURNING REFUGEES FROM ANGOLA. UNSUCCESSFUL COUP ATTEMPT WAS
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 LISBON 04565 111831Z

REPORTEDLY MADE IN TIMOR AUGUST 10. END SUMMARY.

1. PS DECISIONS: FOLLOWING AUGUST 9-10 MEETING SOCIALIST NATIONAL COMMITTEE ANNOUNCED A SERIES OF DECISIONS, INCLUDING:

- ENDORSING POLITICAL ANALYSIS AND PROPOSALS FOR ACTION CONTAINED IN PS "PROPOSAL FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION" ISSUED JULY 28 (LISBON 4321);
 - SUPPORTING SOARES LETTER TO PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES (LISBON 4528);
 - AGREEING WITH CONTENTS OF MELO ANTUNES DOCUMENT;
 - REAFFIRMING SUPPORT FOR WORK OF CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY.
- IN ADDITION, NATIONAL COMMITTEE SUSPENDED THREE PARTY MEMBERS FOR LENDING THEIR SUPPORT TO A PUBLIC DOCUMENT CRITICAL OF RECENT PARTY ACTIONS.

2. PCP DEFINES PRIORITY TASKS: PCP CENTRAL COMMITTEE ISSUED STATEMENT AUGUST 10 ENDORSING THE FIFTH PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT AND CALLING FOR INCREASED STRENGTH AND UNITY OF THE ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT (AFM) AND CLOSE COLLABORATION BETWEEN AFM AND GOVERNMENT. STATEMENT DEFINED PRIORITY POLITICAL TASKS AS:

- ASSURING RESPECT FOR "DEMOCRATIC ORDER" AND EXERCISE OF LIBERTIES IN ALL NATIONAL TERRITORY (READ: PROTECTING PCP MILITANTS IN AREAS OUTSIDE LISBON);
- REORGANIZING AND PURGING STATE APPARATUS;
- FORMING A SYSTEM OF POWER WHICH GUARANTEES CENTRALIZATION OF FUNDAMENTAL DECISIONS.

3. CUNHAL SPEAKS: IN LONG STATEMENT TO PLENARY OF PCP CENTRAL COMMITTEE PARTY LEADER CUNHAL STRESSED UNITY THEME AND MADE FOLLOWING POINTS:

- CURRENT CRISIS IS MOST ACUTE SINCE APRIL 25, 1974, BUT REVOLUTIONARY FORCES ARE SUFFICIENTLY STRONG TO ENSURE CONTINUATION OF REVOLUTIONARY PROCESS.
 - DEBILITATING DIVISIONS EXIST WITHIN THE TWO ELEMENTS ESSENTIAL TO REVOLUTIONARY PROCESS -- AFM AND POPULAR MOVEMENTS.
 - CRISIS OF GOVERNMENT HAS RESULTED FROM INSUFFICIENT COORDINATION BETWEEN THE POWER OF THE GOVERNMENT AND MILITARY POWER.
 - A PRIORITY TASK OF REACTIONARIES HAS BEEN TO DIVIDE THE AFM.
 - AFM MUST NOT LIE ITS POSITION AS VANGUARD OF REVOLUTIONARY PROCESS BY IMMERSING ITSELF IN MASSES.
 - GREATER CLARIFICATION OF INTERNAL SITUATION WITHIN AFM
- CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 LISBON 04565 111831Z

WOULD HAVE BEEN DESIRABLE BEFORE FORMATION OF NEW GOVERNMENT, BUT CONDITIONS WOULD NOT PERMIT THIS.

- CURRENT SITUATION DOES NOT EXCLUDE FURTHER MODIFICATIONS IN GOVERNMENT TO INCREASE ITS EFFICIENCY AND BROADEN ITS BASE OF SUPPORT.
- IN CURRENT DIFFICULT SITUATION, PORTUGAL MUST CONTINUE ITS GOOD RELATION WITH CAPITALIST COUNTRIES -- ESPECIALLY WITH COMMON MARKET -- AND CONTINUE GOOD RELATIONS WITH SPAIN,

WHILE BROADENING RELATIONS WITH THIRD WORLD AND SOCIALIST COUNTRIES.

-- COMPLEXITY OF CURRENT SITUATION REQUIRES A REEXAMINATION OF POSITIONS ON PART OF REVOLUTIONARY FORCES. NARROWNESS AND GROUP RIGIDITY MUST BE OPPOSED, EVEN WITHIN RANKS OF PCP.

-- PCP IS PREPARED TO COOPERATE WITH ALL GROUPS WHICH SUPPORT GOALS OF REVOLUTION.

-- REVOLUTION CANNOT BE MADE WITHOUT ACTIVE PARTICIPATION BY PCP AT ALL LEVELS INCLUDING, WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT.

4. VIOLENCE: PCP HEADQUARTERS IN BRAGA WAS ATTACKED BY LARGE CROWD FOLLOWING A DEMONSTRATION AUGUST 10 BY CATHOLICS IN SUPPORT OF ARCHBISHOP OF BRAGA. ANTI-COMMUNIST DEMONSTRATORS ATTEMPTING TO ENTER BUILDING WERE REPELLED BY GUNFIRE FROM COMMUNISTS. FIFTEEN PERSONS WERE WOUNDED, ONE SERIOUSLY, BEFORE CROWD DISPERSED BY TROOPS. ON AUGUST 11 PCP HEADQUARTERS WAS SURROUNDED BY DEMONSTRATORS WHO HAD SET FIRE TO BUILDING AND WERE PREVENTING FIREMEN FROM REACHING SITE. IN OPORTO, A COMMUNIST YOUTH "STAND" WAS DESTROYED BY A BOMB; IN PENAFIEL AND MONCAO, PCP AND MDP/CDE HEADQUARTERS WERE SACKED.

5. DAY OF EMIGRANTS CELEBRATED IN LISBON: ANNUAL "DAY OF EMIGRANTS" CELEBRATIONS TOOK PLACE IN LISBON SUNDAY, AUGUST 10. CELEBRATIONS ORGAINZED BY CONSULTATIVE COMMISSION OF PORTUGUESE EMIGRANTS IN FRANCE (CCEPF) AS A DEMONSTRATION OF SUPPORT FOR THE AFM, PRIME MINISTER VASCO GONCALVES, AND THE FIFTH PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT. THE EVENT HAD ORIGINALLY BEEN SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE IN OPORTO, BUT SITE WAS CHANGED TO LISBON BECAUSE OF "TENSE POLITICAL CLIMATE" IN THE NORTH. PRIME MINISTER, WHO WAS TO TAKE PART IN EVENT, DID NOT APPEAR. POPULAR DEMOCRATS (PPD) ISSUED STATEMENT CRITICIZING CELEBRATION AS PARTISAN EVENT. STATEMENT CONCLUDED THAT EVENT MOVED TO LISBON BECAUSE SPONSORS KNEW IT WOULD NOT ATTRACT ANY PARTICIPANTS OUTSIDE THE CITY.

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PAGE 04 LISBON 04565 111831Z

6. ATTEMPTED COUP IN TIMOR -- TELEX REPORTS FROM PORTUGUESE AUTHORITIES IN TIMOR REPORTED THAT ATTEMPTED AUG. 10 COUP BY DEMOCRATIC UNION OF TIMOR (UDT) IN DILI WAS UNSUCCESSFUL. UDT FORCES ASSAULTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS AND THEN USED CAPTURED WEAPONS IN AN ATTEMPTED TAKEOVER OF THE PORTUGUESE MILITARY HEADQUARTERS. SITUATION IN DILI NOW ONE OF "TENSE CALM," WITH PORTUGUESE AUTHORITIES AND UDT REPORTEDLY IN DIALOGUE.

7. COMMENT: STATEMENTS BY SOCIALISTS AND COMMUNISTS ARE BOTH OF THE "CLOSE-RANKS" VARIETY. COMMUNISTS AND THEIR SYMPATHIZERS, INCLUDING SOME WITHIN THE AFM, HAVE MADE MUCH OF ALLEGED DEEP SPLITS WITHIN THE RANKS OF THE SOCIALISTS. SOCIALISTS, HOWEVER, HAVE DEMONSTRATED A HIGH DEGREE OF COHESION THROUGHOUT THE EVENTS OF PAST FEW WEEKS. MORE IMPORTANT, IT IS RATHER THE AFM

AND THE MILITARY IN GENERAL WHICH IS SPLIT AND EVEN THE INTERNAL DISCIPLINE OF THE PCP IS SHOWING SIGNS OF STRESS. CUNHAL'S REFERENCE TO "GROUP RIGIDITY" WITHIN PCP IS A CASE IN POINT.

8. CONTINUED VIOLENCE IN THE AREA NORTH OF LISBON, COMING ON THE HEELS OF THE DISPATCH OF ADDITIONAL TROOPS THERE AND THE EMERGENCY VISIT TO OPORTO BY COPCON COMMANDER OTELO SARAIVA DE CARVALHO AND ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF FABIAO, UNDERSCORES THE CONTINUING INABILITY OF THE ARMED FORCES TO DEAL WITH THE SITUATION.

9. UNSUCCESSFUL "DAY OF THE EMIGRANT" CELEBRATION, HIGHLIGHTED THE PLIGHT OF ALL PORTUGUESE MIGRANTS, INCLUDING THE MOST ACUTE IMMEDIATE PROBLEM -- THE RETURNING REFUGEES FROM ANGOLA. PPD COMMENTS RE GROWING ISOLATION OF GOVERNMENT IN LISBON WERE RIGHT ON THE MARK.
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